

## Great Sippewisset Creek Subwatershed Falmouth, Cape Cod, Massachusetts

The Great Sippewisset Creek Subwatershed is located in the Town of Falmouth. It has an area of 1,316 acres. Great Sippewisset Creek flows to Buzzards Bay on the eastern boundary of this watershed. Route 28 and 28A run through the area. It is moderately residentially developed with very little commercial development.

Approximately five percent of Falmouth is publicly sewered. The sewered areas are Main Street in Falmouth and nearly all of Woods Hole. Ninety to ninety-five percent of the town is on municipal water. There is one treatment plant in Falmouth, currently processing 550,000 gallons per day (gpd) with a capacity of 810,000 gpd, discharging to groundwater. A \$14 million upgrade has been approved to bring the capacity up to one million gpd in the next few years. Long Pond, partially located in this subwatershed, is the source for Falmouth's municipal water.

The Black Beach/Great Sippewisset Marsh District of Critical Planning Concern was created in 1996 to protect the 340 acres of sensitive marsh and barrier beach system. The town nominated the district to prevent flood damage, improve water quality, protect important plant and wildlife habitat, manage stormwater runoff, protect finfish and shellfish, and minimize harmful effects of new development. The town developed regulations that included clearing and grading limitations, prohibition of wetland alteration, increased wetland buffers, improvements to septic systems and stormwater drainage, protections to flood zones and dunes, and other regulations.

### Stewards:

- Falmouth Associations Concerned with Estuaries and Saltponds (FACES)

### Studies conducted in the watershed:

- Sippewisset Marsh is one site in a 2001 WHOI study of subsurface groundwater pathways to coastal embayments.
- Atlas of Tidally Restricted Salt Marshes – Buzzards Bay Watershed, Massachusetts. 2002. Buzzards Bay Project National Estuary Program.
- Atlas of Stormwater Discharges in the Buzzards Bay Watershed, Final Draft. June 2002. Buzzards Bay Project National Estuary Program.

### Who is collecting water quality data and where:

- Unknown

### Management actions taken:

- Unknown

### Subwatershed facts: (For data sources see Appendix)

- 21 E sites: 1, located at Falmouth High School, Gifford Street
- Solid waste sites: none



- Interim Wellhead Protection Areas (IWPAs): 1
- Percent of the undeveloped land that is protected (according to 1985/1990 data): 32.1%
- Acres of existing wetlands: 132
- Certified vernal pools: 2
- Named freshwater ponds: Fresh, Beach
- Named rivers or creeks: Great Sippewisset
- 1998 Massachusetts 303(d) List of Impaired Waterbodies: Great Sippewisset Creek - pathogens.
- Shellfish growing areas: Great Sippewisset Creek is prohibited to shellfish harvesting.
- This watershed contains Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife.

### Priorities:

- Connect Falmouth High School wastewater to the Falmouth WWTF.
- Fresh Pond needs volunteers to participate in the Pond and Lakes Stewardship Project (PALS), measuring water quality and other characteristics of the pond.
- Implement those salt marsh restoration projects identified in the *Atlas of Tidally Restricted Salt Marshes – Buzzards Bay Watershed, Massachusetts* (2002) that have been evaluated and prioritized by the town. Sites in this subwatershed are FA20, FA21, FA22, FA26, FA27, FA28, and FA28A.
- Acquire open space. Parcels considered a priority for acquisition for water supply protection and development: Falmouth Tracts 4, 6, 11, 12, 19, 26, 33, and 35 were ranked as having medium or high water supply development potential in the Cape Cod Commission's *Priority Land Acquisition Assessment Project* (April 1999). These tracts are located throughout the Town of Falmouth.

### Recreation:

Camping areas: none

Golf courses: none

Pathways and trails:

- [www.capecodcommission.org/pathways/trailguide.htm](http://www.capecodcommission.org/pathways/trailguide.htm)

Public access

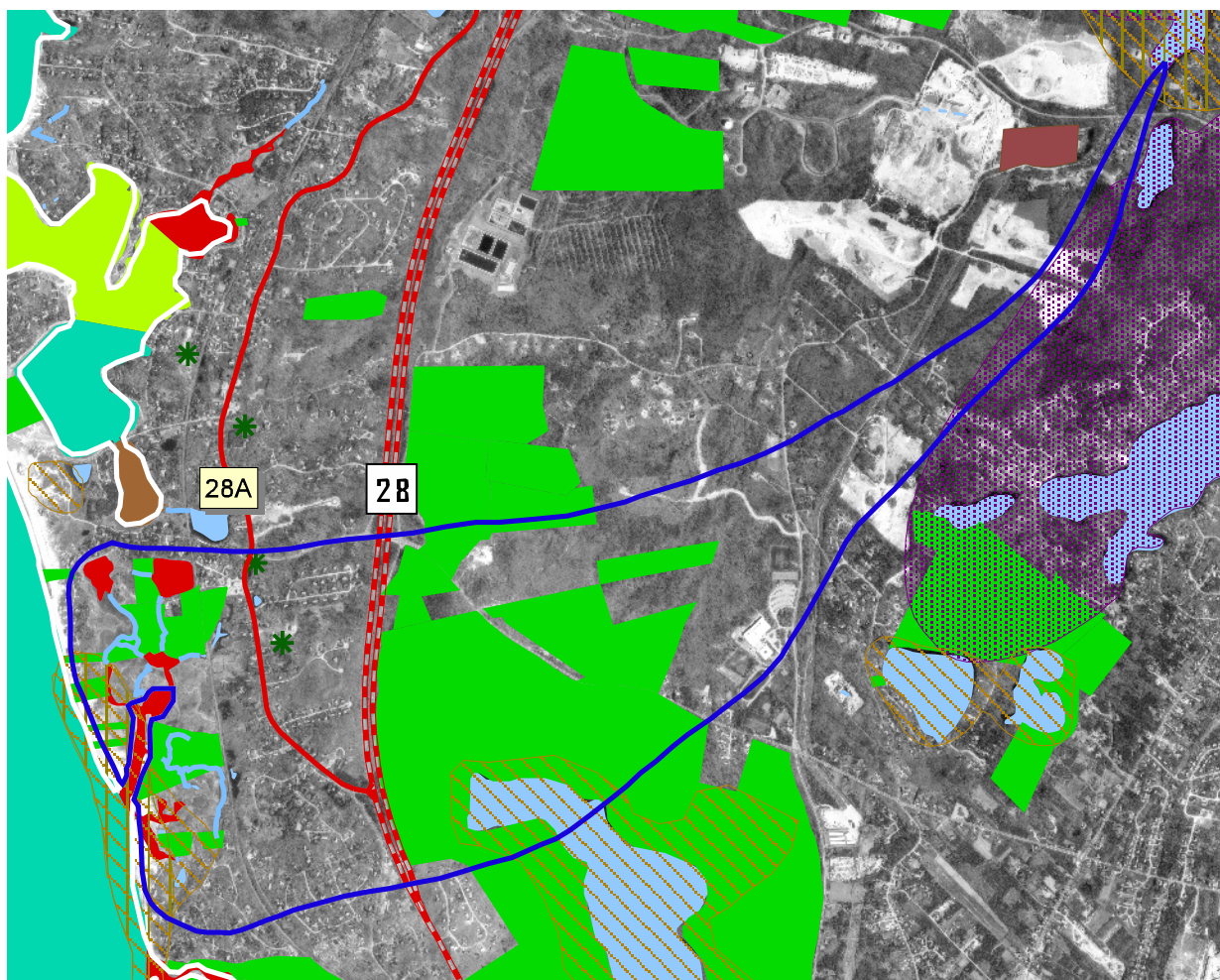
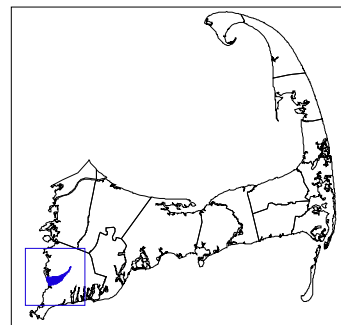
- [www.state.ma.us/dfwele/pab/pabSEmap.htm](http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/pab/pabSEmap.htm)

Public beaches and landings: none



# Great Sippewisset Creek

Falmouth, MA



## Watershed Resources



0 0.5 1 Miles

### Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program Data

- Certified Vernal Pool
- Priority Habitats of Rare Species
- Estimated Habitats of Rare Species

### Groundwater Protection Areas

- Interim Wellhead Protection Area
- Zone II
- Solid Waste Facility

Watershed Boundary

Anadromous Fish Run

### Shellfish Growing Areas

- APPROVED
- CONDITIONALLY APPROVED
- MANAGEMENT CLOSURE
- PROHIBITED
- RESTRICTED

Open Space

Streams

Ponds

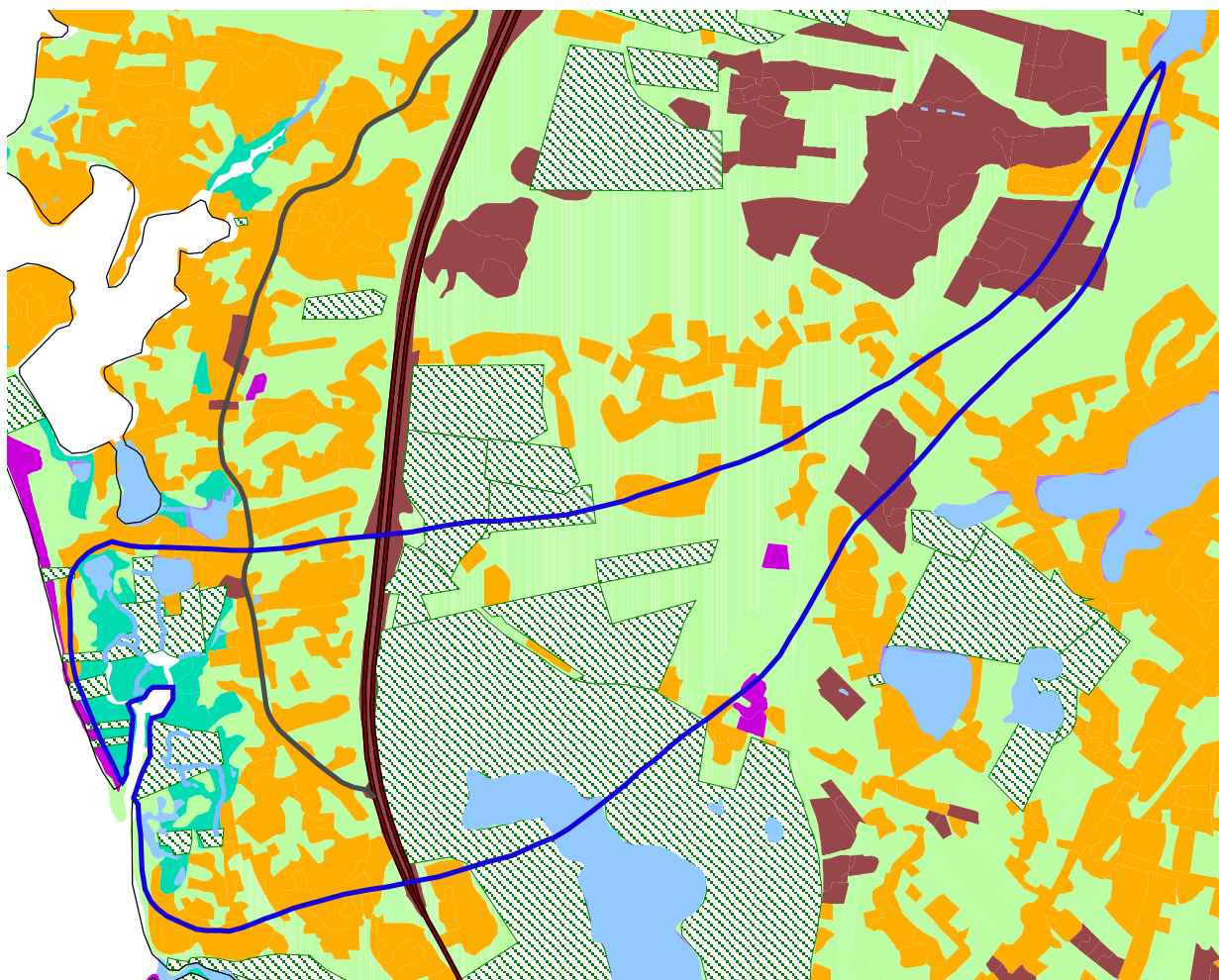
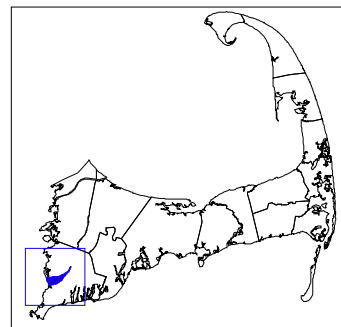
Roads





# Great Sippewisset Creek

Falmouth, MA



## Land Use



0 0.5 1 Miles

## Land Use

- non-residential developed
- open land
- recreation
- residential
- water
- wetland

- Streams
- Ponds
- Watershed Boundary
- Protected Open Space

